

JESUS RAISED A WIDOW'S SON

LUKE 7



KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 29:12-13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is prayer? Prayer is talking with God to praise Him, ask Him for help, and confess our sins.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life. We are all dead in our sins, but Jesus will give us new life in Him if we repent and trust in His life, death, and resurrection.

STORY POINT: Jesus raised a widow's son to life.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Jesus had only just finished healing the centurion's servant in Luke 7:1-10 when He came upon the funeral procession of a widow's only son. Jesus didn't merely feel sorry for the grieving widow; He demonstrated His compassion by publicly raising her son from the dead. In this passage, we witness the truth that only Jesus has the authority to restore the dead back to life.

The timing in which Jesus entered the woman's life is interesting as it appears that He came on the scene just a little too late. Perhaps the woman's son had been sick or had received a mortal wound from an accident. Either way, his time for hanging on to life had passed, and people were now carrying the son's dead body through the streets on the way to the grave. Despite this tragedy, Jesus told the woman not to weep.

This wasn't because He lacked emotion; Scripture tells us Jesus is the man of sorrows acquainted with our grief, suffering, and sickness (Isaiah 53:3). No, Jesus understood the depths of the woman's despair, and He embodied the greatest hope in her time of need. The widow no longer needed to cry because Jesus would soon resurrect her son—a precursor to His promise to one day wipe away all tears and bring an end to suffering and death.

This week, lead the kids in your class to see that Jesus offers the gift of eternal, resurrected life to anyone who believes Him. Just as the widow's son was physically dead but raised to life, Christ will raise all who call on Him to immediate new spiritual life and resurrected physical life at His return.



Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Get Him to Jesus!" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ index cards

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ coffee filters
- ☐ eye dropper
- ☐ cookie sheets
- ☐ chenille stems



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ props

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Jesus Raised a Widow's Son" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 24, Session 2" Questions from Kids video

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "With All Your Heart (Jeremiah 29:12-13)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever seen something so exciting or amazing that you couldn’t help but tell someone about it? What did you see? Who did you tell?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Get Him to Jesus!” activity page.

SAY “Today we will learn that **JESUS RAISED A WIDOW’S SON TO LIFE**. Jesus has the power to raise the dead to life, including those who are dead in their sins by giving them new life.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: FEELINGS



Before this activity, write out different feelings on index cards such as sad, happy, confused, surprised, excited, etc. and place them in a bag. Gather kids in a group and ask for one kid as a volunteer. Direct her to draw a card out of the bag, read it, and act it out. Challenge the rest of the group to shout out what feeling she is acting out. Continue, using a new volunteer each round.

SAY “In today’s story, we will see how a widow and a large funeral crowd went from extreme sadness to complete joy when **JESUS RAISED A WIDOW’S SON TO LIFE**. Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life and forgive sins.”

☐ OPTION 2: NEW LIFE TRANSFORMATION

Invite kids to sit around tables and distribute two coffee filters to each kid. Place markers in the center of each table. Direct kids to stack their coffee filters so that one sits inside the the other and flatten them out. Then encourage them to use markers to color the coffee filters. Lead kids to come to the front, place their coffee filter on a cookie sheet and assist them in using an eye dropper to drip water onto their coffee filter until it is completely wet. Set the filters aside to dry. Once they are dry, separate the filters and fold each one like an accordion. Stack the two folded strips together and twist a chenille stem around the middle. Then arrange the ends of the chenille stem to point up, forming the antennae.

SAY “Caterpillars go into a cocoon and then come out as a butterfly, which is why butterflies often remind us of new life or transformation. Today’s story will remind us of the new life we can have through Jesus if we repent and trust in His life, death, and resurrection.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Welcome, kids! My name is [your name], and I am so glad you are here! Today I am looking forward to sharing the story of how **JESUS RAISED A WIDOW’S SON TO LIFE**. This is an amazing, true story that demonstrates Jesus’ power to bring the dead to life, even those who are dead in their sins. If you have a Bible, will you take it out and place it in your lap? [Distribute Bibles to kids who do not have one.]

God wants to speak to us through His Word. Let’s ask Him to prepare our hearts to hear what He wants to teach us today. ‘Lord, thank You for Your Word. Help us to listen and understand what You want us to learn through our story today. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ Each time we study God’s Word together we like to think about a big picture question and answer that helps us focus on an important truth from the Bible. Does anyone remember our big picture question? [Allow responses.] Our big picture question is: **What is prayer?** Do you remember the answer to that question? [Allow responses.] **Prayer is talking with God to praise Him, ask Him for help, and confess our sins.** Through prayer, God reminds us of who He is. He is the God who has the power to raise the dead, just as we will see in today’s story. We are all dead in our sins, but Jesus will give us new life in Him if we repent and trust in Him. The most important prayer we can ever pray is to ask Jesus to forgive our sins. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ The long-awaited Messiah who the prophets foretold had finally arrived. Last week, we learned how John the Baptist was reminded that Jesus is the Messiah. Today we will hear a story that again shows that Jesus is the Messiah. **JESUS RAISED A WIDOW’S SON TO LIFE**, demonstrating His power over death and sin. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 7. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Raised a Widow’s Son.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS RAISED A WIDOW’S SON

“ Jesus, His disciples, and a large crowd were traveling to a town called Nain. As Jesus was coming near the gate of the town, a dead man was being carried out. This man was his mother’s only son, and she was a widow, which meant her husband was dead. A large crowd from the city was also with the woman.

When Jesus saw her, He had compassion on her. He said, “Don’t cry.” Then He came up and touched the coffin carrying the young man’s body. The people carrying the coffin stopped. Jesus said, “Young man, I tell you, get up!”

The dead man sat up and began to speak! Jesus brought the man back to his mother. Everyone was amazed, and they glorified God. They said, “A great Prophet has come to us!” and “God has visited His people.”

Word about Jesus and this miracle spread throughout Judea and the land.

Christ Connection: Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life. We are all dead in our sins, but Jesus will give us new life in Him if we repent and trust in His life, death, and resurrection. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Bring context: Help kids understand that the widow’s situation was not only sad, but also would have been scary for her. Because of the culture at that time, without a husband or son, she would have been left without any financial support.

What’s next?: As you tell the story, pause at exciting points and ask the kids to guess what will happen next. Then, continue with the story and see if the kids were correct.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ As Jesus continued His ministry on earth, He traveled with His disciples to the town of Nain. When they entered the town, they saw a crowd of people carrying a body of a young man who had just died. In the crowd was the man’s mother, a widow who had just lost her only son. What did Jesus say to the widow? [Allow responses.] Jesus saw the widow, had compassion on her, and told her not to cry. Jesus was getting ready to do something amazing for this woman and her son. Jesus went to the young man’s body and told him to get up. The young man got up and began talking! How did the people who saw this miracle respond? [Allow responses.] The people were amazed at what they just saw. Jesus had just raised a dead man to life! This miracle caused the people to praise God and tell other people what Jesus had done.

Jesus has the power to raise the dead and give new life because He is the Son of God. When we see Jesus’ work in our lives and in the lives of others, we should praise God, just like the crowd did in today’s story. We should also go tell others about Jesus so they can experience His power in their lives.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life. We are all dead in our sins, but Jesus will give us new life in Him if we repent and trust in His life, death, and resurrection. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Have you experienced God working in your life? If you would like to know more about trusting Jesus as your Savior and the new life He gives, please talk to your parents or one of the leaders at church. We would love to share more with you. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 24, Session 2” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Are most of the stories in the Bible true?
2. How does Jesus’ power show that He is God?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ The mission of Redemption Church in Utah is to start new churches throughout Utah and in some of the toughest places, train people so they can be missions leaders, pastors, and church planters, and help the community live transformed lives as they become followers of Jesus. Over the last 10 years, Redemption Church has supported and helped launch many new churches that they continue to work with. ”

Northern Utah is the most unreached region of the United States. Only 2 percent of the people who live there are Christians. Some areas have less than 1 percent of people who claim to be followers of Jesus. Redemption Church believes more people in this area need to hear about the good news of Jesus.

Redemption Church wants to partner with other churches who would like to start new churches or offer support to help more people learn the good news about Jesus. Pray for Redemption Church and its leaders as they tell people in Utah about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Jeremiah 29:12-13 together.

SAY “ Let’s continue memorizing our key passage that reminds us of the important truth that God hears us when we pray. ”

Challenge kids to say aloud the key passage with you. Then, encourage kids to clap each time they say a word from the key passage. Repeat and challenge kids to say the key passage together while doing different activities such as clapping on each syllable, snapping for each word, hopping for each word, etc.—doing something different each time they say the key passage.

Lead kids to sing “With All Your Heart (Jeremiah 29:12-13).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Thank You, God, that You have the power to bring the dead to life and give believers new life in You. Help us share this good news with others so they can trust You as Savior. In Jesus’ name, amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Luke 7. Explain that Luke, a doctor, was not one of the original twelve disciples of Jesus. However, Luke closely followed Jesus' life and ministry and interviewed those who were closest to Jesus. Luke also traveled with Paul and recorded what he learned in the Gospel of Luke and in its sequel, the book of Acts.

Consider pointing out the location of Nain [E5] on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 7:16 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “ The people who saw the young man raised from the dead realized that only God could do what Jesus did. The people realized Jesus’ power and even said that God had visited His people. Jesus is the long-promised Messiah whom the prophets had been speaking of for hundreds of years. The Bible tells us that we are all dead in our sins, but Jesus has the power to raise us and give us new life in Him when we repent of our sins and trust in Him. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ How does today’s story remind us of God’s love and care for us? ”

Jesus is full of love and compassion for people, especially those who are grieving and in need. When Jesus saw the widow who had lost her only son, He had compassion on her and cared for her. God showed His love and care for us by sending Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves and give believers new life. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Mark 6:34.)

SAY “ How can a person experience new life in Jesus? ”

To experience the new life Jesus offers, we must turn away from our sin and trust Him as our Savior and Lord. The people in today’s story were amazed when they saw Jesus raise the young man from the dead, but only a few trusted that Jesus is the Messiah, God’s Son. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 3:16.)

SAY “ What does today’s story show us about God’s power? ”

God alone has the power to raise the dead, both physically and spiritually. Throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry, we see several examples of Jesus raising those who were physically dead back to life. On the cross and through the empty tomb, we see Jesus conquer sin and death once and for all allowing all who trust in Him to have victory over the power of sin and death. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 19:26.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: FREEZE!

Ask for several volunteers to come to the front and be the actors. Challenge the volunteers to listen closely as you whisper a scene from today's story such as the funeral procession, the sad widow, Jesus raising the young man from the dead, the crowd's amazement, etc. Then, allow them to pick up some props to use as they re-create the scene. Encourage kids to position themselves in the scene and freeze. Then, challenge the rest of the group to shout out which scene they are acting out. Repeat using a new set of volunteers and new scenes.

SAY “ Today we saw that **JESUS RAISED A WIDOW'S SON TO LIFE**. Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life. Believers can share this good news with others, so that they can experience the joy of new life in Him. ”

☐ OPTION 2: BEFORE AND AFTER



Invite kids to sit around tables and distribute a piece of paper to each kid. Place other supplies at the center of each table. Direct kids to fold their paper in half vertically, creating two columns. Discuss that we saw how things were before Jesus came and how things changed after Jesus entered the scene. Challenge kids to draw what was happening in the story before Jesus came on the left sides of their papers. (the funeral procession, the widow crying, etc.) Then, encourage kids to draw how the scene changed after Jesus raised the young man from the dead. (the young man talking, the crowd amazed and rejoicing, etc.)

SAY “ Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life. He alone can give new life to those who trust Him as Savior. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.